

## Minutes for the ABAC meeting of May 20, 2015.

Approved June 17, 2015

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Ron Sender, Phil Goff, Doug Greenfield, Stephan Miller and Jack Johnson. Scott Smith was absent. Also in attendance were Joey Glushko, Stephen Quinn, Officer John Costa, Elizabeth Shea and Rod Holland.

\*The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

\*The minutes for the April meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

COBWEB officer Introduction and comments. Officer John Costa introduced himself and then we briefly discussed the traffic incident on the Bikeway last Sunday. We then discussed forming a working group, including the COBWEB officers, to promote safety awareness among the elementary, middle and high school students in Arlington. Officer Costa thought that we should concentrate on the middle school and the boys and girls club because middle school students are at an age more likely to be receptive to the goals of the program. The Officer will consult the Chief of Police and the School Resource Officer about forming such a group.

The recent Bikeway Cleanup held on April 18. Stephan told us that there were around 50 volunteers picking up trash along the full length of the Bikeway in Arlington. His survey of the Bikeway after the event revealed that all of the trash has been collected. He noted that riding down the Bikeway the next morning he saw trash already scattered about. He thought that the, soon to be installed trashcans would reduce the amount of trash thrown on the Bikeway. We then discussed, once more, the mess around Arlington Liquors and what could possibly be done about it. Stephan's letter to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) does not appear to have been effective.

Joey told us that the Scutra Restaurant, which is next door to Arlington Liquors, would like to put an outdoor seating area near the Bikeway so perhaps Scutra will put pressure on the liquor store to clean up their act. She also told us that there has been some interest in putting a small snack bar on the plaza beside the new development across the Bikeway from Scutra.

John Wald Memorial. Elizabeth is interested in establishing a garden adjacent to the memorial. She told us that she met a woman who has been keeping the area clean. Joey told us that she has put the area on the DCR field maintenance list. She added that even if the DCR takes it on, the maintenance will be minimal. This, at least, means that they will provide pickup for any refuse created during a volunteer cleanup.

Bikeway user counts. Joey told us that the numbers for the May 5th count were higher than last year's spring count. The number of bicycles was the same but there was an increase in the number of joggers and walkers. She hopes to do counts again in July but the dates have not yet been chosen. Joey added that she would like to see all three towns on the Bikeway do their counts on the same day.

BIKEArlington Tour held on May 17. Jack gave us a summary of the event. There were 28 participants. It was a very leisurely and pleasant ride. Stephan asked why we see very few repeat riders every year? We decided that finding out why there are so few repeat participants is something to look into before next year's ride.

Upcoming Tricommunity Bicycle Committee meeting on June 6. The meeting this year will be at the Cary Library in Lexington at a time yet to be determined. We discussed a possible agenda including eBikes, emergency dispatch along the Bikeway, how is the Minuteman Bikeway Website is being used, wayfinding and other signage, the Hours of Use Initiative and Bikeway user counts. Christopher then explained the issue of locating emergency calls to Officer Costa.

Rails to Trails Magazine article. Heather Beasley-Doyle, who lives in Arlington, is writing an article about “mature” bikeways for Rails to Trails Magazine. Jack has assisted her in getting to know the Bikeway. We invited her to attend an ABAC meeting and the Tri-Community meeting in June. Jack told us that he will also assist a photographer who is illustrating the article.

Kid’s Bicycle Helmets. We briefly discussed where to store the helmets until Town Day. Christopher asked if we might want to give away some of the helmets before that date. Phil suggested that we get in touch with the Safe Routes to School Coordinator to see if they have any interest in free children’s helmets. Officer Costa suggested we contact the Arlington Housing Dept. to get the helmets to people who might be unable to buy them.

Bicycle lights for Town Day. Christopher suggested that we might want to give out bike lights at Town Day. We discussed the pros and cons. Christopher also suggested that we might want to give out reflective vests. Phil added that maybe we should sell them for a nominal fee to defray costs and discourage those who aren’t going to use them. Joey told us that Ben Maquire, at Quad Cycles, would be willing to order the lights for us at a discounted price. We could then sell the lights for a few dollars over cost. They would also be willing to take back the unsold inventory. Joey reminded us that there is a box of the excise tax inserts, alerting people to wear reflective clothing when walking or cycling at night, that we could give out at Town Day.

Flashing headlights on the Bikeway. Doug told us that there have been several complaints about bright flashing headlights at night on the Bikeway. We had a discussion about the necessity of using a bright light on the Bikeway. We decided that it would be wise to not use a flashing light at night. Jack informed us that this is a national conversation that is still emerging.

\*Stephan requested that the committee vote to reimburse him with the \$16 that he spent on trash bags for the cleanup. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

\*The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

\*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller